GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1542
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
PLAN TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF PACKAGED FOOD ITEMS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to improve the quality of packaged food items/commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any comparative study of the provisions of the Indian Laws and that of the Developed Nations has been undertaken by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) As far as the Ministry of Health & F.W. is concerned, for improvement in quality of foods, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been undertaking some of the following measures:

1. Harmonization of the standards for foods under the PFA Rules, 1955 with Codex standards which are considered as international reference standards Developed modules for training and arranged training programmes on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP);

2. Developed training modules and arranged training programmes on food hygiene for food establishments;

3. Based on the internationally accepted norms, developed GMP and GHP for incorporating as one of the requirements for licensing provisions under the PFA Act, 1954 and notified the draft amendments for soliciting comments from public;

4. Revising the labeling provisions for pre-packaged foods for improving the product information for making informed choice by consumer.

(c)&(d) Amendments in the provisions under PFA Rules are usually carried out taking into the consideration the standards prescribed by the international standards setting body i.e. CODEX of which India as well as developing and developed nations are also members.